

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

There were nine members who attended the meeting in Fort Mill on May 10. Bragging rights for long distance travel went to our Las Vegas, NV member, Michael Capen. Yes, there he was in Fort Mill. Remarkable!

Michael brought along some outstanding North Carolina pieces. Three in particular left at least one of us panting. But they were not for sale. And Pierre Oldham had two very interesting Columbian Peanut Company mavericks, again not for sale. There were plenty of tokens that were for sale however, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Your editor added about 15 pieces to his collection. How often is one able to do that?

Treasurer Bob King reported that, after paying for the meeting room, funds on hand amounted to \$443 and a few cents. That's the good news. In the area of other (not so good) news, Bob reported that 27 members had paid dues for 2008. Currently 32 members have renewed their membership. This means we have lost 5 members since last year – a loss we can ill afford.

Sites were selected for the next three meetings. The next meeting will be held in Statesville, at the Econo Lodge at exit 151 off Interstate 40, on November 8. This is the location in which we met in November of 2005, but it was then a Holiday Inn Express. There'll be a map in the November issue.

Then in May of 2009 we will meet in Hendersonville, NC; and in November of 2009 the meeting will be held in Spartanburg, SC. So, make your plans now for November 8 in Statesville and make a note of the 2009 sites.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all CARTS members. I hope you have been able to keep your cool during the dog days of this summer. I've been staying inside mostly and haven't been doing too much rummaging at the local flea markets and antique malls. So I may have missed a couple of the few-and-far-between goodies that get offered so seldom these days. I have been able to add a few tokens to my collection, however, mainly from eBay. Check out the "New Finds" section for a couple of neat pieces, including an unlisted lumber company and an "egg check." Our fall meeting is coming up soon (November 8th) and the details are printed elsewhere in this issue. But suffice it to say that I hope everyone can make it to the meeting in Statesville! See you then.

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro, CARTS President

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

WANTED

ANYTHING TO DO WITH L. BOCHE, GEO. KUEHL, GEO. KUEHL & SON, GEO. KUEHL & BRO.

Also any information, rubbings, scans, photos, etc. of above. Also want all transportation, carwash, parking tokens.

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New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

New finds from South Carolina have been scarce recently, but I did add two new tokens to my collection in the past three months. The first one came my way via a friend who is a relic hunter. He had obtained this 24mm, aluminum maverick from one of his fellow detectionists. The only information that he had on the token was that it had been dug somewhere in the lowcountry. The inscription reads as follows: W.T. KUHNS LUMBER CO. // 1.00 (within rays). I didn't recognize the name of the lumber company as a listed piece, so after my purchase I was quick to get home and do some research.



I first reached for Trantow's lumber token catalog and found no listing for the company there. I next checked my digital database of South Carolina mercantile

directories and got an immediate hit for the company. Further research has revealed the following. The W.T. Kuhns Lumber Company was first listed in the 1914 edition of the *R.G. Dun Mercantile Directory* as operating a sawmill in the Jasper County town of Tillman. The mill was shown as a branch operation of a Savannah, Georgia company. Listings continued for seven additional years (through the 1921 edition), but with no mention of a Savannah headquarters after 1916. The 1916 *Lumbermen's Directory* gives virtually the same information, but nothing further. The 1920 edition of *The Southern Lumberman's Directory* gives further info, but I believe it contains an error. This directory shows the company as operating a band sawmill with a 40,000 board feet daily capacity, as well as a logging railroad, a dry kiln, edgers, trimmers, and a commissary. Output was cypress, black and red gum, long leaf and short leaf yellow pine, and North Carolina pine. Headquarters was listed at Savannah, Ga. but the sawmill was identified as being in the town of Stokes in Colleton County. It is the sawmill location that I believe may be in error. None of the Dun or Bradstreet directories list this company operating in that town, nor does the well-researched *Logging Railroads of South Carolina*, by Thomas Fettes. He only mentions a Jasper County operation like all other sources except the one I believe may be in error. While it is possible that the company could have moved their operations to Stokes after the timber was all cut at Tillman, there should have been some mention of operations at Stokes in one of the other sources.



The second new find comes courtesy of eBay. The inscription on the 24mm, brass token is such: TERRY & SHAFFER / EGG / CHECK / WALTERBORO, S.C. // GOOD FOR / 10 / IN / MERCHANDISE. A twenty-five cents specimen resides in my collection and is listed in *South Carolina Tokens*. These two are the only examples I have encountered. The company operated as a general store as early as 1877 and lasted into the mid-1920s. The term "EGG CHECK" which appears on the token is unique on a South Carolina token and I have not encountered it on a token from elsewhere. No doubt it refers to the practice of farmers selling their extra eggs to the merchant who paid them in tokens instead of actual money; a practice which forced the farmers to continue doing business with that particular merchant

STORE TOKENS OF ORA MILL AND BUFFALO MILLS, N.C.: A DOVER ASSOCIATION

Lamar Bland

Although no tokens bearing the Dover name have been recorded from the Shelby area, the 7 tokens which read “Ora Mill Store” were issued by the founder of Dover Textiles – John Dover, Sr (1858-1931). The seven denominations were 1, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents; and 1 and 5 dollars. The ORCO legend is the same on each reverse.



Five Dollar Token from Ora Mill Store

Mr. Dover built 4 mills in Shelby: Ella Mill (1907), Eastside Mill (1917), Dover Mill (1923), and Ora Mill (1925). It was his custom to promote village life near the mills by building houses, a school, and a church for his workers. He also built a grocery in the Ora village where tokens could be used; these tokens were issued at any plant in operation in the late 1920's. The tokens were bought at a discount by the workers.

Leadership in the second Dover generation came from brothers John (Jack) and Charles. Charles assumed ownership of the Ora store after their father's death, sharing that ownership in the 1930's with Vic Wray. When Wray died at the end of the decade, the property was sold to B.E. Price. From that time forward the store was privately owned by Price or his heir Ervin Price, not by Dover Textiles. Ervin Price indicates that Ora tokens were withdrawn from use by 1943 when they started showing up in local vending machines. Many of these “loonies” were subsequently thrown into Brushy Creek, which separated Dover Mill and Ora Mill villages. Later, however, a small

supply was found in the estate property of Ervin's father.



Dover Mill



Ora Mill

A more recent token find can also be related to the Dover culture. Buffalo Mills tokens, associated with the Stubbs, N.C. community in Cleveland County, exist in denominations of 5, 10, 25, 50 cents, and \$1.



Fifty Cent Token from Buffalo Mills Store

A company booklet – *Dover: An Experience in Textiles* (1982) points out that John Dover's sons expanded the family operation by adding 3 additional mills. These included the nearby Cherryville yarn spinning plant (1936), and the Buffalo Mills plant (1947). The pre-existing Buffalo Mills operation, which had fallen into disrepair, was totally renovated when Jack and Charles bought the mill and used their father's model for restoring village life there. This entailed

years of reconstruction. The 2 mills eventually became known as the Dover Yarn Mill.



Dover Yarn Mill

Because none of the elderly Dover descendants remembers seeing a Buffalo Mills token – nor does Ervin Price – attributing this coinage to the Dover family or to the Price family has to be

circumstantial. However, we do know that the original Buffalo Mills operated for a very brief time, beginning in 1929. Since the Stubbs community was found in decline by the Dover brothers in the 1930's, the tokens could have been ordered by them as part of their restoration effort. Buffalo Mills tokens usually have a bright, new appearance. This may suggest that they were found unsuitable to ever circulate because they too could become “loonies” in 1940's vending machines.

Thanks to John and Ann Dover, Sara Dover Vincent and Jack Vincent, Ervin and Mackie Price, Don Bailey, and Bob King for their varied help with this research.

Up from the Depths

Tony Chibbaro

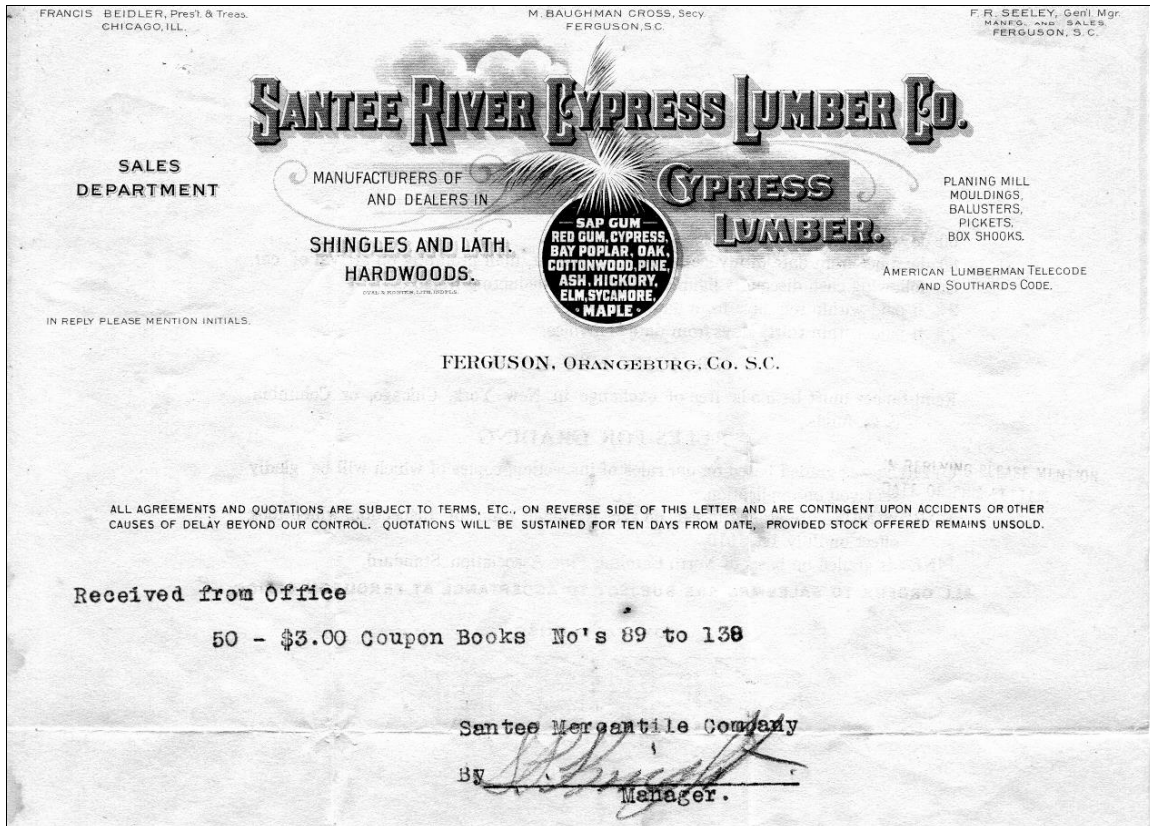
The recent drought in the Southeast, although not as severe this year in South Carolina, has had the effect of lowering the water levels in most of the state's rivers and lakes. Of interest to token collectors is Lake Marion in the south central portion of the state, where the decrease in water level last summer exposed the community once known as Ferguson. The town had been the home of the Santee River Cypress Lumber Company (and its subsidiary the Santee Mercantile Company) prior to the creation of the lake in 1940.



Real photo postcard dated 1912 showing the company office, sawmill and lumberyard.

The town had been founded by and named after one of the partners in the lumber company - a Chicago businessman named Benjamin F. Ferguson. He had partnered with fellow Chicagoan Francis Beidler in

1890, forming the Santee River Cypress Lumber Company, well known to collectors of South Carolina trade tokens. Timberland was purchased along the Wateree, Santee, and Congaree Rivers. A large sawmill, capable of producing 80,000 board feet per day, was erected in southeastern Orangeburg County, along with the associated edgers, trimmers, dry kilns, commissary, and several miles of logging railroad. There was even a small hospital to cope with the constant threat of malaria in the deep swamp.



Undated company letterhead. Note Francis Beidler's name at top left and the mention of coupon booklets received by the commissary. No such coupon booklets are known to survive. Also note the address listed as Orangeburg County.

B.F. Ferguson died in 1905 and his interest in the venture was purchased by Beidler, who ran the mill until it closed in the teens. In the late 1930s Santee-Cooper, the state-owned utility company, purchased the land that was to become Lake Marion. This included the town of Ferguson. The dam was constructed and lake waters slowly engulfed the area where the sawmill had been.



Photo taken in summer of 2007 by Dwight Stewart, Jr. Note sawmill foundations in background and osprey nest in the stunted tree.

In 2007, as the lake waters receded because of the drought, remnants of the sawmill and its associated structures again saw the light of day. Numerous foundation blocks were visible in the now shallow waters and people were able to explore the area on foot again after more than 65 years.

Token collectors, however, have never lost touch with the town of Ferguson. Tokens from the lumber company have been known for many years and are actually quite common. There are four different sets known, each set with multiple denominations. Two of the four sets are extremely common, so much so that even novice collectors should easily be able to acquire specimens.



Token from Santee Mercantile Company, bimetalllic, 38mm.

The first set I will describe is made up of tokens which are bimetalllic, with aluminum centers set inside brass outer rings. They were issued in the name of the Santee Mercantile Company, the name of the commissary operated in conjunction with the mill. The tokens carry an 1899 patent date on their reverses and come in five different denominations - \$1.00, 50¢, 25¢, 10¢, and 5¢. The \$1.00 and 50¢ tokens are fairly common and are the ones most likely encountered. The lower denominations often come damaged with the aluminum centers illegible.



Rarest of the Santee Lbr. Co. tokens, aluminum, 35mm. Note that Berkeley County is shown as part of the address.

The three other sets were made entirely of aluminum, and all were issued in the name of the Santee River Cypress Lumber Company. The rarest of these show the company's address on the obverse as "FERGUSON, BERKELEY CO., S.C." It is unknown why the tokens list Berkeley County on them as the town was actually located in Orangeburg County. There are only four specimens known at the present time - a pair of \$1.00 tokens, one 10¢ token, and one 5¢ token.



The most common tokens from Santee Lbr. Co. have no town or state shown on the obverse. Aluminum, 28mm.

The most common of the aluminum tokens are those which do not have the company's location on the obverse. There are only four denominations in this set - 50¢, 25¢, 10¢, and 5¢. A novice collector should

be able to locate one or more of these fairly easily for around \$6 to \$10 per token. These tokens often come with a bit of corrosion on them, the result of sitting inside a bucket in a dilapidated shed for many years.



Two different \$1.00 tokens are known from this set. This one is aluminum and measures 36mm.

The third set of aluminum tokens has the company name and address on the obverse, but not the name of the county. There are two different \$1.00 tokens which slightly differ from one another in diameter and the size of the numerals on the reverse. Other denominations include 25¢, 10¢, and 5¢, and most probably 50¢ also but none have been encountered yet. The \$1.00 tokens are not rare, but the other denominations are determinedly so.

There is also a recently discovered series of time checks. A fellow collector was fortunate enough to dig up a pair of similar tokens while the lake waters were low. My specimen reads: SANTREE RIVER CYP. LBR. CO. / 974 (serial #) / SERIES / C / TIME CHECK on the obverse with a blank reverse. The token is aluminum, round, 35mm in diameter, and holed as made. I was not able to examine the specimen he kept, so I don't know if it is similar or not.

Even though the lake waters have again submerged the sawmill and its environs, we token collectors still have pieces of its past to hold onto and admire.

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PEANUT TOKENS, CAROLINA AND OTHERWISE

Don Bailey

Those of us who were of college age during the 1950's and 60's recall the Kingston Trio singing:

"Just before the battle, the
General hears a row;
He says 'The Yanks are coming,
I hear their rifles now'!
He turns around in wonder, and
what do you think he sees?
The Georgia Militia, eating
goober peas!"

Of course the "goober peas" mentioned in this Confederate camp song are simply peanuts. (The term "goober" comes from "nguba", the Bantu word for peanut.) The first known publication of the entire song, which was titled simply *Goober*

Peas, was in 1866. This first edition tells us the words are by "A. Pindar" and the lyrics are by "P. Nutt". You see immediately there is a play on words here. Clearly "P. Nutt" is to be interpreted as "peanut". But "A. Pindar" is also simply another way to say "a peanut". "Pindar" is an American Indian word for peanut that was popular in the deep South during the time surrounding the Civil War. But the song contains truth as well as humor. It is reported by an Alabama woman who learned the song in childhood that the Georgia soldiers in the Civil War were always known as "goober grabbers". Indeed they, and Confederate soldiers in general, made do on little but "goober peas" as the war dragged on.

How sad then that at the April SETS meeting in Alabama I was told by several of those in attendance they had never seen, nor heard of, a "peanut token". Hopefully CARTS members are not in this same deplorable state. But just in case, here's a listing of many, but surely not all, North Carolina peanut tokens, and a few from outside the

Carolinas. (We know of, and believe there are, none from South Carolina.)

Most Carolina peanut tokens are from the Columbian Peanut Company. The most commonly found are those from Tarboro. There are three known denominations of the Tarboro peanut tokens, 10, 20 and 40 – cents one would suppose. We show the 40 denomination.



Columbian Peanut Co. / Tarboro, / N.C. // Good For / 10 / In Merchandise – R, Al, 19mm

Columbian Peanut Co. / Tarboro, / N.C. // Good For / 20 / In Merchandise – R, Al, 29mm

Columbian Peanut Co. / Tarboro, / N.C. // Good For / 40 / In Merchandise – R, Al, 33mm

The next most common Columbian Peanut Company token location, in North Carolina, is Enfield. Again these tokens are known in 10, 20 and 40 denominations. We picture the 10 denomination and note it is the only octagonal token currently known from Columbian Peanut.



The Columbian Peanut Company / Enfield, / N.C. // 10 – Oct, Al, 22mm

The Columbian Peanut Company / Enfield, / N.C. // 20 – R, Al, ?mm

The Columbian Peanut Company / Enfield, / N.C. // 40 – R, Al, 32mm

The last, and least common, known Columbian Peanut Company NC location is Scotland Neck. Unlike Tarboro and Enfield, the Scotland Neck tokens are known in 5, 25, 50 and 100 denominations. And of course we are led to

believe – without proof – that the 10 denomination exists. We picture the 25 denomination.



Columbian Peanut Co. / Scotland Neck, / N.C. // 5 – R, Al, 22mm

Columbian Peanut Co. / Scotland Neck, / N.C. // 25 – R, Al, 24mm

Columbian Peanut Co. / Scotland Neck, / N.C. // 50 – R, Al, ?mm.

Columbian Peanut Co. / Scotland Neck, / N.C. // 100 – R, Al, 32mm

Now, we suspect that there are Columbian Peanut Company tokens from other locations in North Carolina. For example, in 1930 the Columbian Peanut Company built a peanut mill in Williamston. This plant operated as a part of the Columbian Peanut Company until 1940 when it became the Williamston Peanut Company. Certainly the 1930 to 1940 period is one in which tokens were in use, and thus there may be a Columbian token from Williamston lurking out there somewhere.

For completeness, we note that Columbian Peanut Company tokens are known from Georgia as well. From Bainbridge tokens of 25¢, 50¢ and \$1.00 are known, and of course there is always the possibility that other denominations will surface.



Columbian / Peanut Co. / Bainbridge, / GA. // Good For / 25¢ / In Payment / Of Labor – R, Al, 26mm

Columbian / Peanut Co. / Bainbridge, / GA. // Good For / 50¢ / In Payment / Of Labor – R, Al, 28mm

Columbian / Peanut Co. / Bainbridge, / GA. // Good For / \$1.00 / In Payment / Of Labor – R, Al, 31mm

And from Fort Gaines only the \$1.00 denomination is known. But surely other denominations are waiting to be found. The only question is “What denominations?”



The Columbian Peanut Co. / Fort Gaines / GA // Good For / \$1.00 / In Payment Of Labor – R, Al, 35mm

Finally there are at least two Columbian Peanut mavericks. Clearly these two mavericks come from different sets. Thus there are surely several more denominations of each series floating around waiting to be found.



The Columbian Peanut Company / Good Only / In The / Hands Of / Employees / (star) // Good For / 10 / In Merchandise – R, Al, 20mm.



Good Only / In The / Hands / Of / Employees // Columbian Peanut Company / Good For / 25 / In Merchandise / (star) – R, Al, 32mm.

These may be from Virginia where the Columbian Peanut Company had its headquarters. Or one or the other, or both, may be from North Carolina, Georgia, or even Alabama. It is known that the Columbian company had facilities at Ozark, Alabama in the Alabama peanut country near Dothan. I continue to

expect an Ozark or a Dothan Columbian Peanut Company token to surface.

We close by pointing out that North Carolina has other peanut tokens. From Scotland Neck two tokens of the National Spanish Peanut Company are known. And as is obvious these two tokens come from distinctly different sets. One obviously belongs to a 10, 20, 40 denomination set, like those of the Columbian Peanut Company from Enfield and Tarboro. The other clearly is from a 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00 set like the Columbian Peanut Company tokens from Bainbridge, GA. So, in all probability there are – at least – four more North Carolina peanut tokens from the National Spanish Peanut Company waiting to be found. (We have no photo of this first token.)

National Spanish Peanut Co. Inc. / Scotland / Neck / N.C. / (star) // (ornament) 40 (ornament) – R, Al, 28mm



National Spanish Peanut Co., Inc. / Scotland Neck / N.C. / (design) // Good For / \$1.00 / In Merchandise – R, Br, 38mm

And there are three maverick tokens, most likely from Edenton, NC. David Schenkman and Bob King both assign them there.



Farmers Peanut Mills / 5¢ // 5 - R, Al, 22mm

Farmers Peanut Mills / 10¢ // 10 - R, Al, 24mm

Farmers Peanut Mills / 50¢ // 50 - R, Al, 32mm

There are additional peanut tokens known from Georgia, and a great many from Virginia. But we'll not address them here. Instead we end with the hope that those tokens we think exist actually turn up. And of course we also hope those we don't know enough to expect turn up as well.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE/TRADE

CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE FOR A NICE SELECTION OF TRADE TOKENS from all over the United States. I have many tokens for sale and some better ones for trade. Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/sc/sctokens/> Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 chibbaro@mindspring.com

WANTED

GEORGIA TOKENS WANTED. All GA tokens, encased and other exnumia wanted. Will purchase or attempt to trade. Randy Partin, 1314 Keystone Pointe, Auburndale, FL 33823 email: RPAR10@VERIZON.NET.

PEANUT TOKENS WANTED. I am seeking all "peanut tokens" especially those I need from the Columbian Peanut Company. If you won't sell, I'll pay for certain photos and descriptions. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729. eladon@brinet.com.

ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW FIND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLASSIFIED AND/OR PAID ADS. Only you can make your club better. Send them in to your editor!

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exnumia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.